

Defence LGBT Restorative Action Stakeholder Pack



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Introduction

LGBT Restorative Action – LGBT veterans affected by the ban in the Armed Forces

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to addressing the historic injustices experienced by LGBT personnel who served in the Armed Forces during the ban on homosexuality between 27 July 1967 and 12 January 2000.

The Government deeply regrets the unacceptable treatment of LGBT personnel during this period, recognising it as wholly unacceptable and not reflective of today's inclusive and diverse Armed Forces. The Restorative Measures being provided by MOD aim to acknowledge the harm caused, restore dignity, and provide recognition to those affected.

In response to Lord Etherton's Independent Review into the treatment of LGBT veterans during the ban, published in July 2023, the Government accepted all 49 recommendations. These include both Financial and Non-Financial Restorative Measures. The Financial Recognition Scheme (FRS) launched on 13 December 2024 and offers two payments:

- **£50,000** for LGBT veterans who were dismissed or discharged solely due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Up to £20,000** to eligible veterans to recognise the broader impact of the ban, assessed by an Independent Panel.

Non-Financial Restorative Measures include rank restorations, return of medals, formal apologies, qualification of administrative discharges, and other symbolic acknowledgments to restore dignity and recognise the contributions of those affected.

This pack has been developed to support external partners in raising awareness of these measures and ensuring that eligible veterans, including those who may no longer engage with the MOD or Armed Forces, are informed of how to apply for the measures and the support available to them.

Eligible individuals must apply before both schemes close at 23:59 on 12 December 2026.

Full details are available on the '*LGBT veterans: support and next steps*' page on GOV.UK.

Your support is vital in helping us ensure all those impacted are aware of and can access the recognition and support they deserve. For further assistance, contact **LGBT-RestorativeAction@mod.gov.uk**.

Defence LGBT Restorative Action Team

February 2026

Veterans of the ban

Defence is committed to addressing the injustices faced by LGBT veterans who were impacted by the Armed Forces ban, which lasted until 2000. Veterans may be eligible for Financial Restorative Measures, including a £50,000 payment for those dismissed solely due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and up to £20,000 to eligible veterans to recognise the broader impact of the ban, assessed by an Independent Panel. Non-Financial Restorative Measures include rank restorations, return of medals, formal apologies, and other symbolic acknowledgments to honour and restore the dignity of those affected. These measures aim to recognise the harm caused by the ban and ensure that veterans' contributions and sacrifices are properly acknowledged.

Pre-1967 Veterans

A pre-1967 veteran is someone who served in HM Armed Forces before 27 July 1967 and was affected by the criminal laws prohibiting same-sex sexual activity in place at the time. It is important to include these veterans because, although the formal Armed Forces ban was introduced in 1967, the criminalisation of same-sex relationships before this date meant that many individuals faced severe discrimination, dismissal, and even prosecution simply because of their sexuality.

By including pre-1967 veterans, we acknowledge the full scope of historical injustices faced by LGBT service personnel, ensuring that no one is excluded from the opportunity for recognition and justice. This inclusion reflects the Government's commitment to addressing all aspects of the harm caused by discriminatory laws and policies, regardless of when they occurred, and ensures that every veteran affected by these injustices is given the chance to access restorative measures.

Pre-1967 veterans impacted by historic Service law can apply for the following non-restorative measures:

- Qualification of Admin Discharge,
- Restoration of Rank/Commission,
- re-issuance of Certificates of Service and
- publication of Service details in the Gazette.

Please note that pre-1967 veterans are not eligible for all restorative measures, nor the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme.

Defence also recognises the need to address the harm caused to LGBT personnel who served before the Sexual Offences Act 1967, which partially decriminalised same-sex sexual acts in England and Wales. We know many of these veterans had traumatic experiences. Pre-1967 veterans are not eligible for Financial Restorative Measures as the Financial Recognition Scheme addresses dismissals solely due to the Armed Forces ban. Before 1967, same-sex sexual acts were criminalised under UK law, reflecting broader societal and legal contexts. While Financial Restorative Measures are not available for pre-1967 veterans, Non-Financial Restorative Measures, such as rank restorations, return of medals, and formal apologies, are available to honour their service and acknowledge the injustices they endured. Defence is committed to ensuring that these veterans are not forgotten and that their contributions are recognised.

Persons of Sufficient Interest (PoSI)

To ensure restorative measures are as inclusive as possible, Defence is also reaching out to Persons of Sufficient Interest (PoSI). A PoSI, such as a family member, next of kin, or close friend, can apply for Non-Financial Restorative Measures on behalf of a deceased LGBT veteran who was impacted by the Armed Forces ban, including those who served before 1967. This inclusion is essential to honour the memory of

veterans who are no longer alive to apply themselves, ensuring their contributions and the injustices they faced are recognised.

While PoSI cannot apply for the Financial Recognition Scheme, which is designed to provide direct financial recognition to living veterans who personally experienced the ban, they play a vital role in ensuring the legacy of deceased veterans is acknowledged. This approach reflects Defence's commitment to delivering justice and recognising the wider impact of the ban on families and communities.

Reaching LGBT Veterans Together

Time is running out to right a historic wrong. The Financial Recognition Scheme and the Non-Financial Restorative Measures are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for veterans of the ban to receive the recognition and justice they deserve.

We cannot do this alone. Your support is critical to ensure that we reach out to as many LGBT veterans as we can. Word of mouth remains one of the most powerful tools to reach those who have been impacted, especially those who may feel forgotten or disconnected. Together, we have the power to break through barriers of mistrust, raise awareness, and give every eligible veteran the opportunity to claim the recognition and justice they deserve.

Amplifiers

Amplifiers are individuals (e.g., friends, family members) or organisations (e.g., charities, clubs, associations) who can help raise awareness of the Schemes by sharing information with LGBT veterans. Their role is not to apply for restorative measures but to ensure those eligible are informed and encouraged to access the support available to them, as well as directing them to the Gov.UK website or the relevant charities for information on eligibility and guidance on how to apply for the Schemes, if they wish to do so.

How can you help?

Please help us amplify the LGBT Restorative Measures by signposting people to the 'LGBT Veterans: support and next steps' page on [LGBT Veterans: support and next steps – GOV.UK page](#). By putting up our posters and including this message in your newsletters and on your websites, you can help spread the word. Our website provides detailed information for anyone affected by historic laws or policies relating to sexual orientation, including Persons of Sufficient Interest in cases involving a deceased affected veteran. It explains how to apply for the available measures, such as the Financial Recognition Scheme and Non-Financial Restorative Measures and offers access to support and guidance throughout the process.

On this website you will find:

- Information on the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme – Details on how the scheme works, eligibility criteria, and the application process.
- Information on Non-Financial Restorative Measures – Eligibility for each measure and guidance on how to apply.
- Support and Services – Links to support available for all veterans, serving personnel, and their families.

Promotional Material

These resources are designed to help your organisation promote the restorative measures available to affected veterans. We encourage you to update your websites/newsletters with the copy included, share the imagery provided, and use the details provided to shape your own awareness increasing efforts to reach out to affected LGBT veterans.

Note: For those without access to online platforms, it is important to display posters in locations where elderly veterans or their families are likely to see them. These include notice boards in GP surgeries, hospitals, nursing or care homes, community gathering places, and through LGBT+ networks.

Suggested website copy

Title: Support for LGBT Veterans Impacted by the Armed Forces Ban (27 July 1967–12 January 2000)

Restorative Measures for LGBT Veterans Affected by the Armed Forces Ban (1967–2000)

The Ministry of Defence is delivering restorative measures to LGBT veterans impacted by the historic ban on LGBT personnel serving in the Armed Forces.

Measures Available are:

- **Non-Financial Restorative Measures:** Includes letters of apology, replacement discharge papers, restoration of rank/commission, Etherton Ribbon, and more.
- **Financial Recognition Scheme - Dismissed or Discharged Payment of £50,000** for LGBT veterans who were dismissed or discharged solely due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Financial Recognition Scheme – impact Payment of up to £20,000** to eligible LGBT veterans to recognise the broader impacts of the ban, assessed by an Independent Panel.

Further information about the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme, Non-Financial Restorative Measures, how to apply and support available can be found on the [LGBT Veterans: support and next steps – GOV.UK page](#).

Financial Recognition Scheme payments are tax-free and will not affect means-tested benefits.

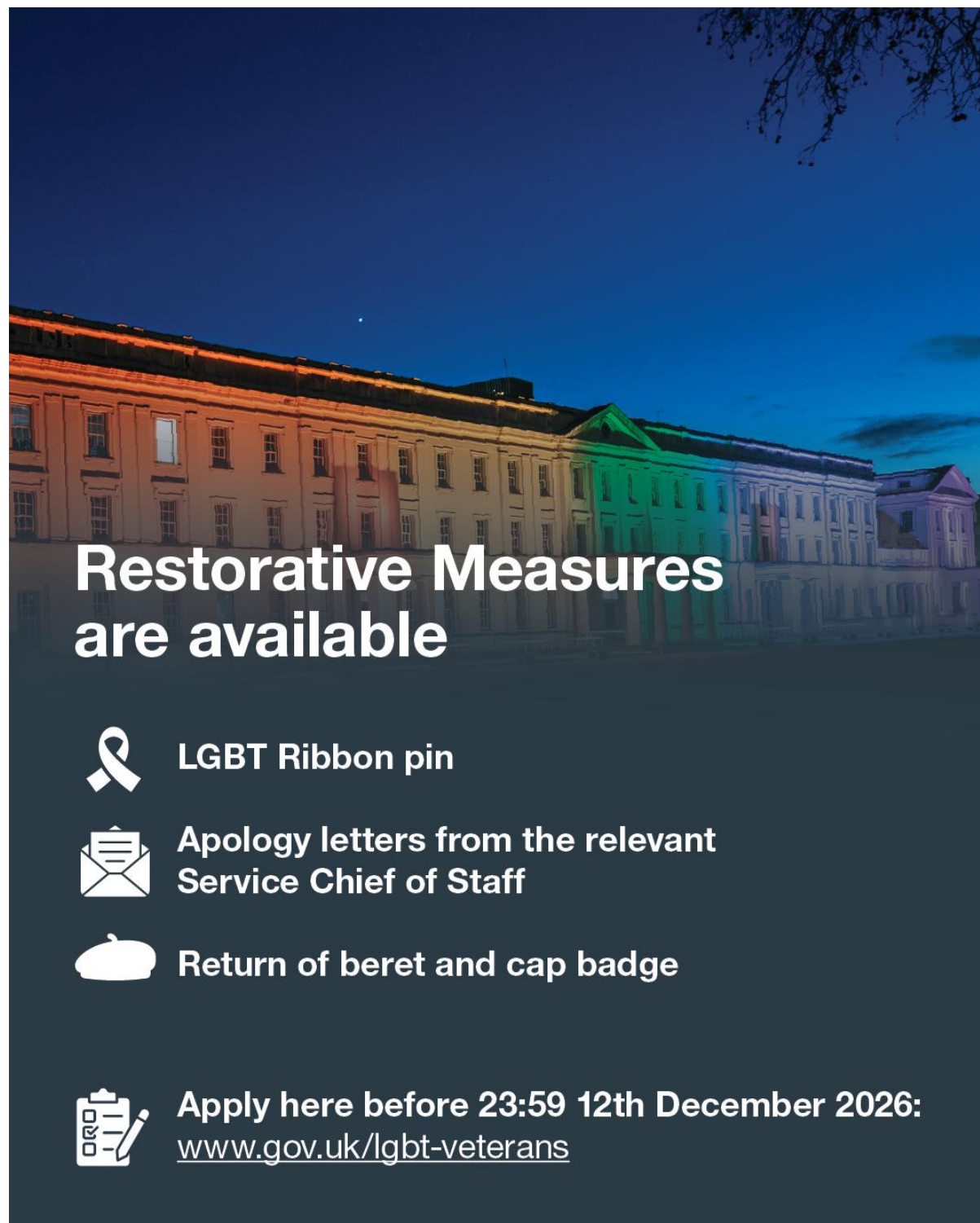
Eligible individuals must apply before both schemes closes at 23:59 on 12 December 2026.

Graphics

The following graphics can be used on your social media, printed and posted on notice boards, shared via newsletters or embedded on your website to help explain the range of support available to LGBT veterans affected by the ban.

Were you impacted by the Ban on LGBT Personnel Graphic

Restorative Measures Graphic



**Restorative Measures
are available**

-  **LGBT Ribbon pin**
-  **Apology letters from the relevant
Service Chief of Staff**
-  **Return of beret and cap badge**

 **Apply here before 23:59 12th December 2026:**
www.gov.uk/lgbt-veterans

Apply for the Financial Recognition Scheme Graphic



 Ministry of Defence

Financial Recognition Scheme

 If you were impacted by the **Ban on LGBT personnel** between 1967 and 2000 in any way, you may be eligible for financial recognition

 **Two types of payments** are available:

- 1) **Dismissed or Discharged Payment of £50,000**
(based solely on the individuals sexual orientation or gender identity)
- 2) **Impact Payment of £1,000-£20,000** for those who experienced pain and suffering directly related to the Ban, decided by an Independent Panel

 **Apply here before 23:59 12th December 2026:**
www.gov.uk/lgbt-veterans

Annex A: Full Details on Restorative Measures

Veterans of the Ban - LGBT Restorative Measures

Defence is running two distinct restorative schemes: the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme and the Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme. These schemes are only open to veterans of the ban – those who served between 27 July 1967 and 12 January 2000 and were impacted by the ban on LGBT personnel serving in HM Armed Forces.

For information regarding LGBT veterans who served prior to 1967, please refer to [Pre-1967 Veterans New Non-Financial Restorative Measures](#).

Veterans of the Ban - LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme

On 13th December 2024, the Government launched the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to recognise the hurt caused for those who served under and suffered from the ban on LGBT personnel serving in HM Armed Forces between 27 July 1967 and 12 January 2000, as recommended in the Etherton Review. The payments express the regret the Armed Forces feel for the inexcusable experiences and the impact they had on those affected under the ban during Service.

The Government recognises the broad range of ways veterans were impacted by the ban and has therefore separated the scheme into two payment types, which address different experiences. These payment types are assessed concurrently, to avoid delaying payments, and veterans can apply for either or both payments.

- **The LGBT Dismissed or Discharged payment** is only for veterans who were dismissed or administratively discharged, including officers who were ordered or instructed to resign or retire by their respective Service Board, based solely on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, from 27 July 1967 to 12 January 2000 (under the ban). The dismissed or discharged payment offers a flat rate of £50,000.
- Officers ordered or instructed to resign or retire their commission by their relevant Service board are included in the Dismissed or Discharged Payment because this order/instruction was the result of an administrative process which was the equivalent to the administrative discharge process for other ranks.
- **The LGBT Impact payment** is open to all those impacted by the ban, including those dismissed or discharged, and recognises other experiences had under the ban. Assessments are made by an Independent Panel chaired by Lord Paddick, separate from and independent of the Ministry of Defence. Payments are up to £20,000.

All payments made by the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme are exempt from **income tax** and recipients should **not experience any reduction or loss of their means-tested benefits** due to these payments. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has introduced an indefinite capital disregard for these payments, ensuring they are excluded from the calculation of means-tested benefits such as Universal Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit, and others.

As per the [LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme Rules](#), payments are being prioritised for applicants who are:

- **Terminally Ill**
- **Elderly**– those who are 80 years of age or older.
- **Experiencing Severe Financial Hardship** – criteria of which is defined in the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme Rules point 47.

The LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme is open for 2 years and the scheme will close for applications at 23:59 hrs on 12th December. Applications can not be accepted after this date.

Please note, payments made by the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme are not compensation payments and do not seek to compensate for any pecuniary losses or attempt to place personnel in a financial position they could have been in, but for the ban.

How to apply for the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme

The LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme is open to all veterans who served during the period of the ban and who meet the eligibility criteria for a LGBT Financial Recognition payment as set out in the Financial Recognition Scheme Rules. Applications can be completed on the individual's behalf by their legal representative.

A Person of Sufficient Interest or the Legal Representative of an individual who served during the ban is not eligible to apply for the scheme on behalf of a deceased veteran who did not apply before they died.

Before applying for the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme, please read:

- Guide to Applying - [LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme guide: How to apply for a Financial Recognition Payment](#) on GOV.UK.

There are two main ways to apply for the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme:

1. LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme App - the Financial Recognition Scheme has a dedicated online application which can be accessed through the Defence Gateway Platform. The Financial Recognition Scheme App has been designed so that applicants will be able to check the progress of their application at any time. The Financial Recognition Scheme App is a key part of how we communicate with applicants and so we recommend using the online application process. Applicants can use any browser to access the Defence Gateway and view their application on the Financial Recognition Scheme app.

There is a two-step process to accessing the online Financial Recognition Scheme app:

- **Stage 1: Online Defence Gateway Registration** – to access the Financial Recognition Scheme App applicants first need a Defence Gateway account. To register for an account, please follow the below link:
 - [LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme Defence Gateway registration process](#)
- **Stage 2: LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme App** – the app has been built as a central place for applicants to manage their applications, allowing them to complete an application for the Scheme online and track the status of their application.

More detailed information regarding this process can be found in the [LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme guide: How to apply for a Financial Recognition Payment](#) on GOV.UK.

2. Hardcopy - the Financial Recognition Scheme offers the option for applicants to submit a hard copy application by post for those who are not comfortable with using the online application process. To request a hardcopy form, applicants can call the Veterans UK Helpline, who will be able to provide a copy of the application form, together with a return envelope.

- Veterans UK Helpline:
 - Email: veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk
 - Freephone (UK only): 0808 1914 2 18, 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday
 - Telephone (overseas): +44 1253 866 043, 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

Veterans of the Ban – Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme

Launched in December 2023, following the Government response to the Independent Review, Defence is delivering 14 Non-Financial Restorative Measures to recognise and support veterans affected by the ban. 10 of these measures, called new Non-Financial Restorative Measures, have been designed to implement the recommendations of the review.

The following list outlines all of the new Non-Financial Restorative Measures currently being delivered under this scheme. For further details, please refer to Table 1 on page 16.

- **Individual Letter of Apology from relevant Service Chief of Staff**
- **Replacement beret and/or cap badge**
- **Former Officers Only – publishing of Service information in the Gazette**
- **Written reproduction of the Prime Minister’s apology**
- **Option to receive restorative measures in a Service ceremony/event**
- **Replacement Discharge papers**
- **Opportunity to provide testimony to form part of the historic record**
- **Etherton Ribbon**
- **Restoration of Rank/Commission**
- **Qualification of Administrative Discharge**

To note, the Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme is open for 3 years and is scheduled to close for applications at 23:59 hrs on 12th December 2026.

Qualification of Administrative Discharge

The Qualification of Administrative Discharge means that those discharged under the ban can have their service records updated to record the ban as the reason for discharge. This will remove any blame or dishonour from veterans.

This qualification will set right the records of veterans who suffered under the ban, recognising that the policy, and their discharge, was wrong and demonstrating the regret of Defence.

Restoration of Rank/Commission

The restoration of Rank enables veterans who had their rank reduced as part of their dismissal or discharge under the ban to have their rank restored to what they rightfully earned in Service. It will also enable officers who had their commission terminated under the ban, to have their commission retired and to use their retired rank in correspondence.

The Restoration of Rank and commission aim to restore veterans' pride in their Service, and recognises the achievements made during their Service.

Etherton Ribbon

The 'Etherton Ribbon' is an awareness ribbon which has been created to acknowledge those affected by the ban, following a recommendation in the LGBT Veterans Independent Review. It's named after the late Lord Etherton, who chaired the review. LGBT veterans played a key part with the design of the Etherton Ribbon.

The colours on the Ribbon are the Pride Flag alongside the military's tri-service colours; Dark Blue represents the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, Red presents the British Army, and Light Blue represents the Royal Air Force. Having these colours together on the ribbon represents the united Armed Forces and LGBT community. Along with 'SUPERBIA' meaning 'pride', and 'IUSTITIA' meaning 'justice'.

How to apply for the New Non-Financial Restorative Measure Scheme

If you are eligible, application forms can be completed depending on who is applying:

- [Form for anyone directly impacted by the ban](#) – for veterans and serving personnel who served between 1967 and 2000.
- [Form for a Person of Sufficient Interest](#) – for a Person of Sufficient Interest to a deceased veteran who served between 1967 and 2000.

Table 1 – LGBT Restorative Measures for Veterans of the Ban, alongside a description of what it is and who is eligible.

Restorative Measure	Description	Eligibility		
		Veterans of the Ban Non-Financial Restorative Measures		
		Veteran	Current Service personnel	Person of Sufficient Interest
LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme				
LGBT Dismissed or Discharged payment	Only for veterans who were dismissed or administratively discharged, including officers who were ordered or instructed to resign or retire by their respective Service Board, based solely on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity under the ban	Yes	N/A	No
LGBT Impact payment	Open to all those impacted by the Ban, including those dismissed or discharged, and recognises other experiences had under the nan	Yes	Yes	No
Non-Financial Restorative Measures				
Individual letters of apology from relevant Service Chief of Staff (Recommendation 2)	You can apply for an individual letter from the relevant Service Chief of Staff apologising for the unacceptable treatment you, and others received during the ban.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Replacement beret and/or cap badge (Recommendation 7)	You can apply for a replacement beret and/or cap badge. Defence will provide the relevant cap badge wherever possible, but if the cap badge has been retired, we will provide a modern alternative.	Yes	N/A	Yes
FORMER OFFICERS ONLY - Publishing of Service details in The Gazette (Recommendation 8)	If you are a former officer you can apply to have your service details published in The Gazette, as part of the official record. This is an alternative to reinstating former officers to the Service Retired List (as this is no longer published).	Former Officers Only	N/A	Former Officers Only

Etherton Ribbon (Recommendation 10)	You can apply for an Etherton Ribbon as an alternative to a special veterans' badge for those who served at the time of the ban.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Written reproduction of the Prime Minister's apology (Recommendation 14)	You can apply for a written reproduction of the Prime Minister's apology in the House of Commons on 19 July 2023, to those affected by the ban.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Option to receive restorative measures in a Service ceremony/event (Recommendation 15)	You can choose to receive any restorative measures you are eligible for in a Service ceremony or event.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Replacement discharge papers where a discharge or dismissal is disregarded/ qualified/ nullified (Recommendation 27)	You can apply to have a Certificate of Service issued. Please note, discharge reasons are not stated on the Certificate of Service.	Yes	N/A	Yes
Opportunity to provide testimony to form part of the historic record (Recommendation 49)	You can submit testimony to Defence which will be added to those given to the Review and submitted to The National Archive. This will form part of the historic record of the ban.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Restoration of rank/ commission (Recommendation 3)	You can apply to restore your rank and/or commission in Service records held by Defence if you were reduced in rank, as a result of a discharge or dismissal, because of the ban.	Yes	N/A	Yes
Qualification of an administrative discharge (Recommendation 26)	You can apply to have an administrative discharge, which was based solely on sexual orientation or gender identity, or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, qualified. Successful applicants' records will be amended or annotated to record the discharge reason as being	Yes	N/A	Yes

	“pursuant to a policy, subsequently held by the European Court of Human Rights to be unlawful”.			
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Pre-1967 Veterans New Non-Financial Restorative Measures

Veterans impacted by historic law prohibiting same-sex sexual activity can apply to have one of the four Non-Financial Restorative Measures:

- **Qualification of Administrative Discharge**
 - Veterans served prior to 1967 and discharged solely due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity can apply to have this qualified with the wording, ‘Discharge was pursuant to a law which has now been abolished and is now considered unfair’, thereby removing any fault from the veterans and accurately recording historic law as the sole reason for their discharge.
- **Restoration of rank/Commission**
 - Veterans who had their rank reduced as part of their dismissal or discharge due to their sexual orientation or gender identity prior to 1967 can apply to have their rank restored to the rank they rightfully earned in service. It will also enable officers, who had their commission terminated, to have their commission retired, enabling them to use their retired rank in correspondence. The aim is to restore veterans’ pride in their Service, and recognise achievements made during their Service.
- **Replacement Certificate of Service**
 - A Replacement Certificate of Service is a modernised document provided to veterans to formally acknowledge their service in the Armed Forces. For pre-1967 veterans, who may have received different types of discharge papers, this certificate offers an updated record of their service, reflecting their contributions and helping to restore their dignity.
- **Former officers - Service details published in The Gazette**
 - Former officers can apply to have their Service details published in The Gazette, as part of the official record. This is an alternative to reinstating former officers to the Service Retired List as this is no longer published.

More information about these restorative measures can be found in Table 2.

Although not covered by the Independent Review, the decision to extend four of the Non-Financial Restorative Measures to pre-1967 veterans have been made based on the intent of the recommendations made by the Etherton Review, and the permanency and effect of the resulting restorative measures.

The four restorative measures being extended are those which align with the Home Office Disregards and Pardons scheme and Defence’s medal restoration policy, putting right their formal Service records. The restorative measures which will remain available only to those veterans of the ban, served between 1967 and 2000, are those which can be seen as symbolic of the apology from Defence for maintaining the ban on homosexuality, despite changes in criminal law, and the acknowledgement that the policy, and its delivery, was wrong.

Veterans who served pre-27 July 1967, are not eligible for the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme. The Government acknowledges that LGBT veterans who served prior to 1967 may have had similar experiences to those who served under the ban, however, Armed Forces policy was in line with criminal law at that time.

The aim of the LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme is to recognise the harm caused by the policy Defence upheld from 27 July 1967 to 12 January 2000, when same sex sexual acts were essentially decriminalised in criminal law.

How to apply for the New Non-Financial Restorative Measure Scheme

If you are eligible, two application forms can be completed depending on who is applying:

- [**Form for pre-1967 veterans who were directly impacted by the historic law while serving**](#) – for veterans and serving personnel who served prior to 27 July 1967.
- [**Form for a Person of Sufficient Interest to someone who served before 1967, who was impacted by historic law while serving**](#) – for a Person of Sufficient Interest to a deceased veteran who served between prior to 27 July 1967.

Table 2 – LGBT Restorative Measures for Veterans of the Ban, alongside a description of what it is and who is

Restorative Measure	Description	Eligibility	
		Pre-1967 Veterans Restorative Measures	
		Veteran	POSI
Publishing of Service details in The Gazette	If you are a former officer, you can apply to have your Service details published in The Gazette, as part of the official record. This is an alternative to reinstating former officers to the Service Retired List (as this is no longer published).	Former officers only	Former officers only
Restoration of rank/commission	You can apply to restore your rank and/or commission in Service records, held by Defence, if you were demoted as a result of a discharge/dismissal based on sexual orientation or gender identity.	Yes	Where there are no related convictions
Qualification of an administrative discharge	You can apply to have an administrative discharge, which was based solely on sexual orientation or gender identity, qualified. Successful applicants' records will be amended or annotated to record the discharge reason as being "pursuant to historic law which has now been abolished and is now considered unfair."	Yes	Where there are no related convictions
Replacement discharge papers where a discharge or dismissal is disregarded/qualified	You can apply to have a Certificate of Service issued. Please note, discharge reasons are not stated on the Certificate of Service.	Yes	Yes

eligible.

Pre-existing - Non-Financial Pre-existing Restorative Measures

Pre-existing restorative measures refer to measures and services that were already in progress or available before the [LGBT Veterans Independent Review](#) was published in 2023. This means they have different application processes to the new restorative measures and have to be applied for separately.

The table below shows the pre-existing non-financial restorative measures, with a description, how to apply and eligibility:

Non-Financial Pre-Existing Restorative Measures Table

Table 3 – Pre-existing Restorative Measures being delivered by Defence, alongside a description of what it is and who is eligible.

Restorative Measure	Description	How to Apply?	Eligibility				
			Veterans of the ban Non-Financial Restorative Measures			Pre-1967 Veterans Restorative Measures	
			Veteran	Current Service Personnel	POSI	Veteran	POSI
Armed Forces Veterans' Badge (recommendation 4)	You can apply for a free HM Armed Forces Veterans' Lapel Badge. This badge aims to raise the profile of veterans, helping the public to recognise your Service.	For more information, and to access the online application form, visit Apply for or replace a medal or veterans badge.	Yes	N/A	Only those in receipt of a War Widow's/Widowers pension and recipients of the Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment	Yes	Only those in receipt of a War Widow's/Widowers pension and recipients of the Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment
Restoration of medals withheld or withdrawn (recommendations 5 & 6)	If you were discharged or dismissed solely on the basis of your sexual orientation, you can apply for any medals that were withheld or forfeited as a result.	For more information, and to access the online application form, visit Military Awards Commemorations.	Yes	N/A	Where there are no related convictions	Yes	Where there are no related convictions
HM Armed Forces Veterans' Card	If you served in the UK Armed Forces, you are eligible for a HM	You do not need to apply for the HM Armed Forces Veterans Card if	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A

(recommendation 9)	Armed Forces Veteran Card. This card enables veterans to easily verify their Service to the NHS, their local authority, and charities. This helps with accessing support and services, where needed.	you have left the Forces after 16 December 2018, as Defence automatically issues this to all Service leavers. If you left on, or before, 16 December 2018, you can access the online application form at Apply for an HM Armed Forces Veteran Card.					
The Disregard & Pardon scheme (recommendation 25)	If you have a conviction for same-sex sexual activity under an offence which has since been repealed or abolished, you can apply to have the conviction disregarded – meaning it will be removed from official records.	For more information, and to access the online application form, visit Disregards and pardons for historical gay sex convictions.	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A

Annex B: Background

LGBT Ban in the Armed Forces

LGBT personnel were prohibited from serving openly in the UK Armed Forces until the ban was lifted in 2000. While the Sexual Offences Act 1967 partially decriminalised same-sex sexual acts in England and Wales on **27 July 1967**, this did not apply to the Armed Forces. While the Sexual Offences Act 1967 partially decriminalised same-sex sexual acts in England and Wales on 27 July 1967, this did not apply to the Armed Forces. Defence maintained a policy that deemed homosexuality incompatible with military service, leading to the criminalisation, dismissal, and, in many cases, the dishonourable discharge of LGBT personnel.

The ban on LGBT service personnel was lifted on 12 January 2000, after four discharged service personnel successfully challenged the Ministry of Defence at the European Court of Human Rights. The Court ruled that the ban breached **Article 8** of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the right to respect for private life

Before the ban was lifted, many individuals were investigated, arrested, interrogated, and dismissed under military laws due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Etherton Review

The Government commissioned the LGBT Veteran Independent Review in 2022, following the publication of the Veterans' Strategy Action Plan, which committed to commissioning a review to better understand the experiences, impacts and implications of the pre-2000 policy on LGBT veterans.

Published on 19th July 2023 and chaired by the late R.T Hon Lord Terence Etherton Kt, KC, PC [the LGBT Veterans Independent Review](#) explored the treatment of LGBT veterans between 1967-2000 under the ban prohibiting homosexuality in the Armed Forces and made 49 recommendations to government.

Government Response

The [Government published its response](#) to Lord Etherton's Review on 13 December 2023, accepting the intent behind all 49 of the recommendations. To date, Defence has implemented 48 of them. The final recommendation, which is led by the Office of Veteran's Affairs, by launching a Women's Forum later this year.

The MOD has taken significant steps to address historic injustices faced by LGBT personnel. In December 2023, the 'front door' Gov.uk page was launched alongside the Non-Financial Restorative Measures (NFRM), that includes non-financial recognition. This was followed by the launch of the Financial Recognition Scheme (FRS) in December 2024, offering financial recognition to those affected.

On 27 October 2025, His Majesty King Charles III unveiled the first national memorial dedicated to LGBT military personnel at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The sculpture,

named "*An Opened Letter*", honours those from the LGBT+ community currently serving in the Armed Forces, as well as those who served during the period when being gay in the military was illegal. Many affected veterans, who attended the ceremony, described the memorial as a symbol of "closure" after decades of campaigning to change the law and seek reparations.

Who we are trying to reach

We aim to reach as many of the veterans affected by the ban as we can and are specifically focused on those who no longer engage with Defence or the Armed Forces communications. These veterans will be aged from 40 years and older. This is particularly challenging as we don't know who the veterans are or where they can be found, so we are encouraging outreach to their wider networks including friends, family, and community groups, to help spread the message.

Annex C: Key Contacts

LGBT Restorative Action Team

LGBT Restorative Action Team General Queries

- **Email:** LGBT-RestorativeAction@mod.gov.uk

LGBT Financial Recognition Scheme Queries

- **Email:** lgbt-frscheme@mod.gov.uk

Non-Financial Restorative Measures Scheme (both Veterans of the ban and Pre-1967)

- **Email:** LGBT-RestorativeAction@mod.gov.uk

Veterans UK Helpline:

- Email: veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk
- Freephone (UK only): 0808 1914 2 18, 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday
- Telephone (overseas): +44 1253 866 043, 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday